**Remarks by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi at China National Textile Cluster Development Conference (Shaoxing: 05 December 2024)**

Honorable Mr. Sun Ruizhe, President China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to address this distinguished gathering. I with to convey my gratitude to China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) for enabling Pakistan’s participation in this important Conference, the only foreign country that has been invited. This special gesture reflects the deep bonds of friendship between Pakistan and China--a relationship rooted in trust, shared vision, and collective progress.

I am also delighted to announce a landmark milestone: the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Pakistan’s Board of Investment and the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC). This MoU lays the foundation for a dynamic and mutually beneficial partnership, paving the way for mutual collaboration in textiles and apparel, development of textile parks in Pakistan; enhancement of our mutual trade; participation in exhibitions and conferences and technology transfer and capacity building of human resources. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Chairman Qiu Yafu and Shandong Ruyi Group for making our presence here possible and for their continued support.

**Pakistan’s textile and apparel industry is the backbone of our economy, contributing over 60% of our exports. Pakistan is:**

- The 2nd largest global supplier of home textiles, denim, and cotton cloth.

- The 5th largest exporter of cotton yarn.

- A leading global supplier of hosiery, apparel, and technical textiles.

**Mr. Rahim Qureshi, Federal Secretary of Board of Investment will speak more about investment in Pakistan, our competitive edge:**

- Our geographic location, providing cost-effective connectivity to Central Asia, the EU, and China.

We value China’s unparalleled leadership in the global textile industry. China’s expertise in technical textiles, apparel, and advanced manufacturing makes it the world’s largest exporter, with over $300 billion in annual global textile trade. This expertise presents a unique opportunity for our two countries to combine our strengths and build transformative and sustainable partnerships.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan attaches very high priority to collaborate with our Chinese friends in this vital sector. Under the direct guidance of our Prime Minister, Pakistan has hosted multiple B2B matchmaking events, including yesterday’s Pakistan-China Textile and Apparel Matchmaking Investment Meeting in Suzhou, where over 150 productive meetings were held between leading companies from both sides.

To further catalyze this collaboration, the Prime Minister has established a high-level Working Group, led by our Deputy Prime Minister, to accelerate the development of textile industrial parks in Pakistan in collaboration with China. These parks will not only provide world-class infrastructure but also integrate sustainable energy solutions—an area where China excels.

I invite Chinese enterprises to seize this moment to forge joint ventures with Pakistani companies, some of who have joined us here from Pakistan as well. Together, we can leverage our complementarities to create long-term partnerships that drive innovation, enhance competitiveness, and secure sustainable growth for both nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Pakistan-China friendship is a testament to what can be achieved when we join hands to realize our shared aspirations. Today’s Conference is yet another step forward in this journey. I urge participants to effectively connect with each other and start conversations with the aim to form sustainable and long term partnerships.

Let us move forward together, building a brighter and more prosperous future for our two great nations.

Thank you.